

## CITY NEEDS MORE WATER.

## MOVE TO GET IT SHOULD BE MADE AT ONCE, DALTON SAYS.

The Commissioner Points to Steadily Increasing Daily Consumption and Declares That the Maximum Capacity of Present Watershed Will Be Reached in 1904.

Commissioner of Water Supply William Dalton, in his report to the Mayor for the quarter ending March 31, again emphasizes that need of increased water supply for the city. The report shows a steady increase in the water consumption for the first quarters of 1898, 1899 and 1900. In the report Commissioner Dalton says:

"The steady increase in the daily consumption of water, which has been stated in previous quarterly and annual reports and in special communications, amounting to from 7 to 10 per cent of the whole daily average in each succeeding year, continues unabated, and will, no doubt, continue as long as the Croton water system is capable of supplying the increase. For the past quarter the average daily consumption was:

**In January:** Croton water, 253,000,000 gallons; Bronx water, 200,000,000 gallons; Total, 253,000,000 gallons.

**In February:** Croton water, 255,000,000 gallons; Bronx water, 200,000,000 gallons; Total, 255,000,000 gallons.

**In March:** Croton water, 243,000,000 gallons; Bronx water, 200,000,000 gallons; Total, 243,000,000 gallons.

**Total for the quarter:** Croton water, 255,000,000 gallons; Bronx water, 200,000,000 gallons; Total, 255,000,000 gallons.

**Total average, first quarter 1900:** 257,000,000 gallons.

**1898:** 256,000,000 gallons.

**1899:** 251,000,000 gallons.

"At this rate of increase in consumption we will reach the maximum capacity of the Croton, Bronx and Bryan watersheds in 1900 and exceed it before the close of that year. In ten years further the demand will exceed the consumption over the capacities of these watersheds by 20,000,000 gallons. Suppose that at this date all the preliminaries of detailed surveys of new watersheds, the preparation, approval and filing of enabling acts, the institution of construction programs, the execution of plans for construction, the execution of contracts and approval of contractors' surveys and accomplishments, and the consumption position of time, the work of construction to-morrow, we would still need all of the time till the close of 1901, all the executive energy and ability that could be commanded, to bring about a constitutional amendment to meet the emergency, and then a simple resolution that the completion of necessary works to assure the present rate of supply for ten years could not be accomplished earlier than 1906."

Commissioner Dalton was uncharacteristically blunt in his statement, but he was right. The movement to add 2½ to 4 points, which was dull, steady, and had been made for spinning, Middletown, uplands, etc., against the 1898-99 water bond issue, was not yet in full swing. It was on the spot with sales of \$100,000,000 of 3½% bonds, and sales of \$100,000,000 of 4 to 5 points advanced to 4 to 5 points. Much more was dull.

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"But we are not in that position. We are as far from it as we have been at any time since Greater New York was established. None of the necessary steps enumerated is yet even authorized."

"If all the several branches of the city government whose cooperative action is necessary to set the water bond issue in motion, were to agree upon and authorize the carrying out of such plan to-morrow, we would still be compelled to lower the efficiency of our water system for a considerable time after the completion of the necessary works to assure the present rate of supply that the completion of necessary works to assure the present rate of supply for ten years could not be accomplished earlier than 1906."

Commissioner Dalton added something to the effect that he had asked what he thought of Commissioner Dalton's report, said: "Ranage is hitting its head again. The appearance of the report to the Charter Revision Commission and Dalton's report were coming so closely, tell the story. The only thing to do is to pass a constitutional amendment exempting the water bond issue from the requirement of the minimum of 50% added ready steady at a net loss of 4 to 5 points. Estimated sales \$250,000,000 bonds. Prices as follows:

**High Low Close Last Year**

**est. est. Closing**

**June . . . . . 8.35 8.24 8.29 8.31**

**July . . . . . 8.45 8.25 8.32 8.34**

**August . . . . . 8.50 8.25 8.32 8.34**

**September . . . . . 7.90 7.75 8.25 8.43**

**October . . . . . 7.72 7.62 8.25 8.43**

**November . . . . . 7.55 7.51 8.15 8.75**

**December . . . . . 7.55 7.45 8.15 8.75**

**January . . . . . 7.55 7.45 8.15 8.75**

**February . . . . . 7.62 7.51 8.24 8.76**

**March . . . . . 7.62 7.51 8.24 8.76**

**April . . . . . 7.62 7.51 8.24 8.76**

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